

What is claimed is:

1. A method of electronically selecting language characters, comprising:

providing a keyboard that includes a plurality of keys, in which:

each of the numerals 0 through 9 inclusive is displayed on a respective one of the

5 keys, each of at least 8 of the numeral-displaying keys further having language characters displayed thereon;

for each one of said 8 keys, a plurality of the characters displayed thereon have respective associated markings such that any given character marking on that key is uniquely identified with a single displayed character; and

10 a plurality of the keys have respective markings that visually match the character markings;

selecting a first character displayed on a first one of said 8 keys, wherein the first character has a first marking, by first selecting the first key and then selecting a key displaying the first marking; and

15 selecting a second character displayed on the first one of said 8 keys, wherein the second character has a second marking, by first selecting the first key and then selecting a key displaying the second marking, in which the selected key displaying the first marking and the selected key displaying the second marking are different.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising selecting a third character displayed on the
20 first one of said 8 keys, wherein the third character has a third marking, by first selecting the first key and then selecting a key displaying the third marking, in which the selected keys displaying the first, second, and third markings are different.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the characters are letters of the English alphabet.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein each letter is selected by first selecting the key on which the selected letter is displayed, and then selecting a key having a marking that matches the marking of the selected letter.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein 9 of the numeral-displaying keys are arranged as a 3 x 3 matrix of keys.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the key markings and the letter markings include various matching patterns.

7. The method of Claim 5, wherein, for each one of said 8 keys, each letter displayed on said one key has a marking of a different color.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein the 3 x 3 matrix includes a first, a second, and a third row of keys, wherein:

the first row includes 3 keys displaying the numerals 1, 2, and 3, respectively;

the second row includes 3 keys displaying the numerals 4, 5, and 6, respectively;

and

the third row includes 3 keys displaying the numerals 7, 8, and 9, respectively.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein:

the numeral 2 key has the letters A, B, and C displayed thereon;

the numeral 3 key has the letters D, E, and F displayed thereon;

the numeral 4 key has the letters G, H, and I displayed thereon;

the numeral 5 key has the letters J, K, and L displayed thereon;

the numeral 6 key has the letters M, N, and O displayed thereon;

the numeral 7 key has the letters P, R, and S displayed thereon;

the numeral 8 key has the letters T, U, and V displayed thereon; and

the numeral 9 key has the letters W, X, and Y displayed thereon.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein:

the letters A, D, G, J, M, P, T, W and the keys 1, 4, and 7 are marked with a first color;

the letters B, E, H, K, N, U and the keys 2, 5, and 8 are marked with a second color; and

5 the letters C, F, I, L, O, V and the keys 3, 6, and 9 are marked with a third color, in which the first, second, and third colors are different from each other.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein:

the letters Q and X are of the second color;

the letters R and Y are of the third color; and

10 the letters S and Z are of a fourth color.

12. The method of Claim 10, wherein the letters themselves are colored, and respective portions of the keys are colored.

13. A keyboard, comprising:

15 keys arranged in rows and columns, said keys forming a keyboard layout, a plurality of said keys having respective markings;

the numerals 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 displayed on respective ones of said keys;

language characters displayed on said keys, each of at least 8 of said numeral-displaying keys having language characters displayed thereon, wherein, on each of said 8 keys, a plurality of said language characters have respective markings such that any given marking on that key is
20 uniquely associated with a single language character, and wherein said key markings visually correspond to said character markings.

14. The keyboard of Claim 13, wherein said key markings and said key character markings include matching patterns.

15. The keyboard of Claim 14, wherein 9 of said numeral-displaying keys are arranged as a 3 x 3 matrix of keys.

16. The keyboard of Claim 15, wherein said language characters include letters of the English alphabet.

17. The keyboard of Claim 16, wherein said 3 x 3 matrix includes a first, a second, and a third row of keys, wherein:

said first row includes 3 keys displaying the numerals 1, 2, and 3, respectively;

said second row includes 3 keys displaying the numerals 4, 5, and 6, respectively;

and

said third row includes 3 keys displaying the numerals 7, 8, and 9, respectively.

18. The keyboard of Claim 13, wherein, on each of said 8 keys, each language character has a marking of a different color.

19. The keyboard of Claim 18, wherein said language characters include letters of the English alphabet, said letters themselves are colored, and said keys have associated colors.

20. The keyboard of Claim 19, comprising a 3 x 3 matrix of a first, a second, and a third row of keys, wherein:

said first row includes 3 keys displaying the numerals 1, 2, and 3, respectively;

said second row includes 3 keys displaying the numerals 4, 5, and 6, respectively;

and

said third row includes 3 keys displaying the numerals 7, 8, and 9, respectively.

21. The keyboard of Claim 20, wherein:

said numeral 2 key has the letters A, B, and C displayed thereon;

said numeral 3 key has the letters D, E, and F displayed thereon;

said numeral 4 key has the letters G, H, and I displayed thereon;
 said numeral 5 key has the letters J, K, and L displayed thereon;
 said numeral 6 key has the letters M, N, and O displayed thereon;
 said numeral 7 key has the letters P, R, and S displayed thereon;
 5 said numeral 8 key has the letters T, U, and V displayed thereon; and
 said numeral 9 key has the letters W, X, and Y displayed thereon.

22. The keyboard of Claim 21, wherein:

said letters A, D, G, J, M, P, T, W and said keys 1, 4, and 7 are marked with a first color;
 said letters B, E, H, K, N, U and said keys 2, 5, and 8 are marked with a second color; and
 10 said letters C, F, I, L, O, V and said keys 3, 6, and 9 are marked with a third color, in

which said first, second, and third colors are different from each other.

23. The keyboard of Claim 13, further including an electronic device in communication
 with said keyboard, said device registering which keys on said keyboard are selected, said device
 including instructions for converting sequences of two keys into language characters, wherein

15 characters are selected by first selecting the key on which the character to be selected is
 displayed, and then selecting a key having a marking that matches the marking of the character to
 be selected.

24. A method of electronically selecting letters, comprising:

providing a keyboard that includes keys, the numerals 0-9 being displayed on respective
 20 keys, and letters of the English alphabet being displayed on the numeral-displaying keys, wherein
 the letters displayed on any given key have different colors;

providing keys of the keyboard with colors corresponding to the colors of the letters; and

selecting letters through a two-key sequence of a first key and a second key, in which the first key is given by the numeral-displaying key on which a desired letter is displayed, and the second key is given by a key having a color that matches the color of the desired letter.

25. An electronic device, comprising:

5 a keyboard that includes keys, the numerals 0-9 being displayed on respective keys, and letters of the English alphabet being displayed on the numeral-displaying keys, wherein the letters displayed on any given key have different colors, and the keys are color-coded with colors corresponding to the colors of the letters; and

an electronic component in communication with said keyboard, said component
10 registering which keys on said keyboard are selected, said component including instructions for converting sequences of two keys into letters, wherein each letter is registered by first selecting the key on which the letter to be registered is displayed, and then selecting a key that is color-coded with a color matching that of the letter to be registered.